

AP Language and Composition

Summer Task 2015

Please read the following carefully as they are the requirements for the summer section of this course. All tasks are due the first day of class. Be sure not to wait until the last minute as tasks are time consuming. Attached are directions and requirements of each assignment. You may email me with any questions.

LDenham1@johnstonschools.org

Task #1: Novel Study

Task #2: *Sound of Silence* presentation

Task #3: Argument Analysis

Best of Luck!

Lianne Denham

Task #1: Novel Study

No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes about Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process.

By Colin Beaven (Published 2008)

Choice of Text

The National Council of English Teachers advises teachers to “consider the contribution which each work may make to the education of the reader, its aesthetic value, its readability for a particular group of students, and its appeal to adolescences.” As most books of literary merit deal with the nature of humanity, each may contain what some believe to be controversial material; however, the Common Core Curriculum encourages students to read widely from a variety of different cultures and backgrounds. Each selected text aligns with AP Language and Composition’s focus on nonfiction and argument

Assignment Goals

- To learn and practice close reading skills essential to becoming successful AP students
- To focus on more than just plot, looking at HOW the author creates meaning uses diction, style, structure, and literary elements.
- To reap the intrinsic and long-term rewards of reading, like empathy of human issues and increased vocabulary.

Evaluation

- Your reading journal, due the first day of class, will be evaluated for completion and effort.
- During the first few weeks of school, you will use the novel as an in class text to complete various assignments.
- In the first or second week of class, you will an in-class commentary/essay. Significant passages will be selected for analysis with a focus on author’s purpose and style.

Assignment Specifics

Note: The following may be submitted in the form of a standard notebook or journal.

Assignment Title	Instructions	Length Specification
MLA Citation/ Expectation	Write or type an MLA citation for the book: (1) author, last name first (2) Title of book (3) Publication place, publisher, latest copyright (4) date of original punctuation. After the citation, read the front and back cover of the book and then write a paragraph about what you expect from the book.	1 citation, 1 paragraph
Speaker	<p>Who is the voice behind the text? Do not describe the speaker as the author, but instead as the voice behind the message. Write a paragraph about the speaker and consider the questions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Does the speaker have any particular bias that could influence the message? •What experience(s) does the writer/speaker bring to the text? •What is the speaker's attitude toward the subject and events in the book? How do you know? 	1/2 page
Occasion	Identify the context of the novel. What do you believe prompted the author to write this novel? How do you know? Include at least 2 <u>specific references</u> to the text. Consider the time at which the novel was released or written. Why did the author write the book?	1/2 page
Audience	To whom do you think the author INTENDED his message? How do you know? Use at least two specific references from the text. Is there any audience you feel that the speaker was not directing his message towards or was neglecting? Support your answer.	1 paragraph
Key Passage	Choose a striking passage from this section that you find important to the overall meaning of the novel- a passage may be a line, quote, and any amount of text. Copy the passage into your journal and then free write about the passage, answering at least two of the following questions: What is the author trying to achieve with this passage? Why is it striking or important? How is this passage typical of the author's style?	Copied passage and 1 paragraph

Tone	Nonfiction titles often differ from fiction in tone; they may often be argumentative, investigative, journalistic, satirical, scholarly, etc. Considering the entire book, find five words that describe the tone of this novel and explain each choice. Explain how the tone is effective for the author's argument.	1 page
Personal Response	What do you believe is the author's central argument or claim? Explain how it is relevant to you and agree or disagree with the author's argument.	1 page

Task #2: *The Sound of Silence*

- 1) Read the following song lyrics.
- 2) Write a well-developed essay analyzing the author's purpose, perspective, and intended audience as well as formal elements of form.
- 3) Create a visual representation of the ideas presented in the piece using a technology forum such as PowerPoint, Prezi, etc. to be presented on the first day of class.

"The Sound Of Silence"

P. Simon 1964

Hello darkness, my old friend,
I've come to talk with you again,
Because a vision softly creeping,
Left its seeds while I was sleeping,
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of silence.

In restless dreams I walked alone
Narrow streets of cobblestone,
'Neath the halo of a street lamp,
I turned my collar to the cold and damp
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light
That split the night
And touched the sound of silence.

And in the naked light I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more.
People talking without speaking,
People hearing without listening,
People writing songs that voices never share
And no one dared
Disturb the sound of silence.

"Fools," said I, "You do not know –
Silence like a cancer grows.
Hear my words that I might teach you.
Take my arms that I might reach you."
But my words like silent raindrops fell
And echoed in the wells of silence

And the people bowed and prayed
To the neon god they made.
And the sign flashed out its warning
In the words that it was forming.
And the sign said, The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls
And tenement halls
And whispered in the sound of silence.

Task #3: *The New York Times: Room for Debate*

Throughout this course, we will be studying and focusing on a large range of non-fiction literature including speeches, articles, essays, etc. Reading non-fiction texts will provide a context for answering impromptu questions on topical issues and practice in analyzing an author's argument. The opinion essay clusters will help generate possible ideas for forming a balanced argument, a component of the research/synthesis unit. Additionally, the article clusters provide close reading of contemporary essays.

Follow these steps for the assignment:

1. Go to <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate>
2. The home page has topics posed in the form of a question. Select a topic that interests you.
3. When you click on a topic title, a list of debates and their essays will appear. Click on "Read the Discussion" to access the first article in the grouping.
4. Click on each of the essay titles to read the other essays in the grouping.
5. You must read **all** of the articles in the grouping. **Be sure to read the entire article, not just the excerpt!**
6. Print the full-text articles in the grouping, read and annotate the articles, and complete the journal assignment outlined below.

For your selected grouping, complete the following:

- 1) Create an MLA citation (works cited entry): use the entry information for an article from an online newswire or newspaper (*see the Purdue OWL website for formatting).

In one typed page under MLA citation:

- 2) Identify the different issues presented regarding this topic.
- 3) Discuss how each side presents its argument.
- 4) Discuss which side you feel is more convincing in its argument and why.
- 5) Utilize *at least 2* quotes from the articles for support.
- 6) Print and annotate each article.